A SHORT ACCOUNT OF *GOD's Dealings*

With the REVEREND

Mr. GEORGE WHITEFIELD, A. B.
Late of *Pembroke-College, Oxford.*

FROM

His INFANCY to the Time of his entering into HOLY ORDERS.

Written by HIMSELF, on board the *Elizabeth*, Captain *Stephenson*, bound from *London* to *Philadelphia*, and sent over by HIM to be published for the Benefit of the *Orphan's House* in *Georgia*.

Thou, O God, hast taught me from my Youth up until now; therefore will I tell of thy wondrous Works. Psalm lxxi. 15.

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Mr. *GEORGE WHITEFIELD.*

The INTRODUCTION.

ALTHOUGH the following Account of what GOD has done for my Soul, will undoubtedly be differently judged of by different People; yet, since I believe a single Eye to GOD's Glory moves me to write, and I find myself much pressed in Spirit to publish it at this Time, I am not in the least solicitous about the Reception it will meet with in the World.

The Benefit I have received from reading the Lives of others, the Examples we have in Scripture of the sacred Authors composing their own Histories, and more especially the Assistance I have had from the Holy Spirit, in bringing many Things to my Remembrance, which otherwise I should have forgotten,

ſeemed to me Reaſons ſufficient to juſtify my Conduct in the Sight of GOD and good Men.

Further, as GOD has been pleaſed of late to call me to a public Work, I thought his Children would be glad to know how I was trained up for it.—And tho' ſome may think this had been as well deferred till after my Death, or wrote by ſome other Perſon, yet I thought it might be more beneficial, and be better credited, if wrote with my own Hand, and publiſhed whilſt I was yet alive.

In the Accounts of good Men which I have read, I have obſerved that the Writers of them have been partial. They have given us the bright, but not the dark Side of their Character. This, I think, proceeded from a kind of pious Fraud, leſt mentioning Perſons Faults ſhould encourage others in Sin.—It cannot, I am ſure, proceed from the Wiſdom which cometh from Above.—The ſacred Writers give an Account of their Failings as well as their Virtues. *Peter* is not aſhamed to confeſs that with Oaths and Curſes he thrice denied his Maſter; nor do the Evangeliſts make any Scruple of telling us, that out of *Mary Magdalene Jeſus Chriſt* caſt ſeven Devils.

I have therefore endeavoured to follow their good Example.—I have ſimply told what I was by Nature, as well as what I am by Grace.—I am not over cautious as to any ſuppoſed Conſequences, ſince none can be hurt by theſe but ſuch as hold the Truth in Unrighteouſneſs —*To the pure all things will be pure.*

As I have often wiſhed, when in my beſt Frames, that the firſt Years of my Life might be put down as a Blank, and had no more in Remembrance, ſo I could almoſt wiſh now to paſs them over in Silence.—But as they will, in ſome Degree, illuſtrate GOD's Dealings with me in my riper Years, I ſhall, as I am able, give the following brief Account of them.

SECT.

SECT I.

From my Infancy, till my being for ſome Time at the Univerſity.

I Was born in *Glouceſter*, in the month of *December*, 1714. My Father and Mother kept the *Bell Inn*. The former died when I was two Years old; the latter is now alive, and has often told me how ſhe endured fourteen Weeks Sickneſs after ſhe brought me into the World; but was uſed to ſay, even when I was an Infant, that ſhe expected more Comfort from me than any other of her Children. This, with the Circumſtance of my being born in an Inn, has been often of Service to me in exciting my Endeavours to make good my Mother's Expectations, and ſo follow the Example of my dear Saviour, who was born in a Manger belonging to an Inn.

My very Infant Years muſt neceſſarily not be mentioned; yet I can remember ſuch early Stirrings of Corruption in my Heart, as abundantly convinces me that I was conceived and born in Sin;—that in me dwelleth no good Thing by Nature, and that if GOD had not freely prevented me by his Grace, I muſt have been for ever baniſhed from his divine Preſence.

I can truly ſay I was froward from my Mother's Womb.—I was ſo brutiſh as to hate Inſtruction, and uſed purpoſely to ſhun all Opportunities of receiving it.—I can date ſome very early Acts of Uncleanneſs.—I ſoon gave pregnant Proofs of an impudent Temper.—Lying, filthy Talking, and fooliſh Jeſting I was much addicted to, even when very young.—Sometimes I uſed to curſe, if not ſwear.—Stealing from my Mother I thought no theft at all, and uſed to make no Scruple of taking Money out of her Pocket before ſhe was up.—I have frequently betrayed my Truſt, and have more than once ſpent Money I took in the

Houſe, in buying Fruits, Tarts, *&c.* to ſatisfy my ſenſual Appetite.—Numbers of Sabbaths have I broken, and generally uſed to behave myſelf very irreverently in GOD's Sanctuary.—Much Money have I ſpent in Plays, and in the common Entertainments of the Age.—Cards, and reading Romances, were my Heart's Delight.—Often have I joined with others in playing roguiſh Tricks, but was generally, if not always, *happily detected.*—For this I have often ſince, and do now bleſs and praiſe GOD.

It would be endleſs to recount the Sins and Offences of my younger Days. They are more in Number than the Hairs of my Head.—My Heart would fail me at the Remembrance of them, was I not aſſured that my Redeemer liveth, ever to make Interceſſion for me.—However the young Man in the Goſpel might boaſt how he had kept the Commandments from his Youth, with Shame and Confuſion of Face I confeſs, that I have broken them all from my Youth.—Whatever foreſeen Fitneſs for Salvation others may talk of and glory in, I diſclaim any ſuch Thing; if I trace myſelf from my Cradle to my Manhood, I can ſee nothing in me but a Fitneſs to be damned.—I ſpeak the Truth in *Chriſt*, I lie not. If the Almighty had not prevented me by his Grace, and wrought moſt powerfully upon my Soul, quickening me by his free Spirit when dead in Treſpaſſes and Sins, I had now either been ſitting in Darkneſs, and in the Shadow of Death, or condemned, as the due Reward of my Crimes, to be for ever lifting up my Eyes in Torments.

But ſuch was the free Grace of GOD to me, that tho' Corruption worked ſo ſtrongly in my Soul, and produced ſuch early and bitter Fruits, yet I can recollect very early Movings of the bleſſed Spirit upon my Heart, ſufficient to ſatisfy me that GOD loved me with an everlaſting Love, and ſeparated me even from my Mother's Womb, for the Work to which he afterwards was pleaſed to call me.

I had

I had early ſome Convictions of Sin, and once I remember, when ſome Perſons (as they frequently did) made it their Buſineſs to teaſe me, I immediately retired to my Room, and kneeling down with many tears, prayed over that Pſalm wherein *David* ſo often repeats theſe Words, *But in the Name of the Lord will I deſtroy them.* I was always fond of being a Clergyman, uſed frequently to imitate the Miniſters reading Prayers, *&c.* Part of the Money I uſed to ſteal from my Parent I gave to the Poor, and ſome Books I privately took from others, (for which I have ſince reſtored four-fold) I remember were Books of Devotion.

My Mother was very careful of my Education, and always kept me in my tender Years (for which I never can ſufficiently thank her) from intermeddling in the leaſt with the public Buſineſs.

About the tenth Year of my age, it pleaſed GOD to permit my Mother to marry a ſecond time. It proved what the World would call an unhappy Match as for Temporals, but GOD over-ruled it for Good.—It ſet my Brethren upon thinking more than otherwiſe they would have done, and made an uncommon Impreſſion upon my own Heart in particular.

When I was about twelve, I was placed at a School called *St. Mary de Crypt* in *Glouceſter*, the laſt Grammar School I ever went to. Having a good Elocution and Memory, I was remarked for making Speeches before the Corporation at their annual Viſitation. But I cannot ſay I felt any Drawings of GOD upon my Soul for a Year or two, ſaving that I laid out ſome of the Money that was given me on one of thoſe fore-mentioned Occaſions, in buying *Ken's Manual* for *Wincheſter* Scholars, a Book that had much affected me when my Brother uſed to read it in my Mother's Troubles, and which, for ſome Time after I bought it, was of great Benefit to my Soul.

During the Time of my being at School, I was very fond of reading Plays, and have kept from School for Days together, to prepare myſelf for acting them.

My

My Maſter ſeeing how mine and my School-fellows Vein run, compoſed ſomething of this Kind for us himſelf, and cauſed me to dreſs myſelf in Girls Cloaths (which I had often done) to act a part before the Corporation. The Remembrance of this has often covered me with Confuſion of Face, and I hope will do ſo, even to the End of my Life.

And I cannot but here obſerve with much Concern of Mind, how this Way of training up Youth has a natural Tendency to debauch the Mind, to raiſe ill Paſſions, and to ſtuff the Memory with things as contrary to the Goſpel of *Jeſus Chriſt*, as Light to Darkneſs, Heaven to Hell. However, tho' the firſt Thing I had to repent of was my Education in general, yet I muſt always acknowledge my particular Thanks are due to my Maſter, for the great Pains he took with me and his other Scholars, in teaching us to ſpeak and write correctly.

Before I was fifteen, having, as I thought, made a ſufficient Progreſs in the Claſſics, and at the Bottom, longing to be ſet at Liberty from the Confinement of a School, I one Day told my Mother, "Since her "Circumſtances would not permit her to give me an "Univerſity Education, more Learning I thought "would ſpoil me for a Tradeſman, and therefore I "judged it beſt not to learn *Latin* any longer." She at firſt refuſed to conſent, but my Corruptions ſoon got the better of her good Nature. Hereupon for ſome Time I went to learn to write only. But my Mother's Circumſtances being much on the Decline, and being tractable that Way, I from time to time began to aſſiſt her occaſionally in the public Houſe, till at length I put on my blue Apron and my Snuffers, waſhed Mops, cleaned Rooms, and, in one Word, became a profeſſed and common Drawer for nigh a Year and a Half.

But he who was with *David* when he was following the Sheep big with young, was with me even here. For notwithſtanding I was thus employed in a common Inn, and had ſometimes the Care of the whole

whole House upon my Hands, yet I compos'd *two or three Sermons, and dedicated one of them*, in partilar, to my elder Brother. One time I remember I was much prefſed to Self-examination, and found myſelf very unwilling to look into my Heart.—Frequently I read the Bible when ſitting up at Night. Seeing the Boys go by to School has often cut me to the Heart.—And a dear Youth (now with GOD) would often come intreating me, when ſerving at the Bar, to go to *Oxford*. My general anſwer was, I wiſh I could

After I had continued about a year in this ſervile Employment, my Mother was obliged to leave the Inn. My Brother who had been bred up for the Buſineſs, married; whereupon all was made over to him; and I, being accuſtomed to the Houſe, it was agreed that I ſhould continue there as an aſſiſtant. But GOD's Thoughts were not as our Thoughts.

By his good Providence it happened that my Siſter-in-law and I could by no Means agree; and at length the Reſentment grew to ſuch a Height that my proud Heart would ſcarce ſuffer me to ſpeak to her for three Weeks together. But notwithſtanding I was much to blame, yet I uſed to retire and weep before the LORD, as *Hagar*, when flying from her Miſtreſs *Sarah*, little thinking that GOD, by this Means, was forcing me out of the public Buſineſs, and calling me from drawing Wine for Drunkards, to draw Water out of the Wells of Salvation for the Refreſhment of his ſpiritual *Iſrael*.

After continuing for a long while under this burden of Mind, I at length reſolved (thinking my Abſence would make all Things eaſy) to go away. Accordingly, by the advice of my Brother and Conſent of my Mother, I went to ſee my elder Brother then ſettled at *Briſtol*.

Here GOD was pleaſed to give me great Foretaſtes of his Love, and fill me with ſuch unſpeakable Raptures, particularly once in St. *John*'s Church, that I was carried out beyond myſelf.—I felt great Hungrings

grings and Thirſtings after the bleſſed Sacrament, and wrote many Letters to my Mother, telling her I would never go into the public Employment again. *Thomas a Kempis* was my great delight, and I was always impatient till the Bell rung to call me to tread the Courts of the Lord's Houſe. But in the midſt of theſe Illuminations, ſomething ſurely whiſpered, *This would not laſt.*

And indeed ſo it happened. For (Oh that I could write it in Tears of Blood!) When I left *Briſtol* (as I did in about two Months) and returned to *Glouceſter*, I changed my Devotion with my Place. Alas! all my Fervour went off.—I had no Inclination to go to Church, or draw nigh unto GOD.—In ſhort my Heart (tho' I had ſo lately taſted of his Love) was far from him.

However, I had ſo much Religion left, as to perſiſt in my Reſolution not to live in the Inn; and therefore my Mother gave me Leave, tho' ſhe had but a little Income, to have a Bed upon the Ground, and live at her Houſe till Providence ſhould point out a Place for me

Having now, as I thought, nothing to do, it was a proper Seaſon for Satan to tempt me.—Much of my Time I ſpent in reading Plays, and in ſauntring from Place to Place. I was careful to adorn my Body, but took little Pains to deck and beautify my Soul.—Evil Communications with my old School-fellows ſoon corrupted my good Manners.—By ſeeing their evil Practices, the ſenſe of the Divine Preſence I had vouchſafed unto me inſenſibly wore off my Mind, and I at length fell into an abominable ſecret Sin, the diſmal Effects of which I have felt, and groaned under ever ſince.

But GOD, whoſe Gifts and Callings are without Repentance, would let nothing pluck me out of his Hands, tho' I was continually doing Deſpite to the Spirit of Grace.—He ſaw me with Pity and Compaſſion, when lying in my Blood.—He paſſed by me,

He

He ſaid unto me, *Live*, and even gave me ſome Foreſight of his providing for me.

One Morning, as I was reading a Play to my Siſter, ſaid I, "Siſter, GOD intends ſomething for me "which we know not of. As I have been diligent "in Buſineſs, I believe many would gladly have me "for an Apprentice, but every Way ſeems to be "barred up, ſo that I think GOD will provide for "me ſome Way or other that we cannot apprehend."

How I came to theſe Words I know not —— GOD afterwards ſhewed me they came from him.— Having thus lived with my Mother for ſome conſiderable Time, a young Student, who was once my School-fellow, and then a Servitor of *Pembroke-College, Oxford*, came to pay my Mother a Viſit. Amongſt other Converſation, he told her how he had diſcharged all College Expences that Quarter, and received a Penny. Upon that my Mother immediately cried out, "This will do for my Son."—— Then turning to me, ſhe ſaid. "Will you go to *Oxford, George*?" I replied, *With all my Heart*. Whereupon having the ſame Friends that this young Student had, my Mother, without delay, waited on them. They promiſed their intereſt to get me a Servitor's Place in the ſame College. She then applied to my old Maſter, who much approved of my coming to School again.

In about a Week I went and re-entered myſelf, and being grown much in Stature, my Maſter addreſſed me thus; *I ſee*, George, *you are advanced in Stature, but your better Part muſt needs have gone backwards*. This made me bluſh. He ſet me ſomething to tranſlate into *Latin*; and tho' I had made no Application to my Claſſicks for ſo long a Time, yet I had but one inconſiderable Fault in my Exerciſe. This, I believe, ſomewhat ſurprized my Maſter then, and has afforded me Matter of Thanks and Praiſe ever ſince.

Being reſettled at School, I ſpared no Pains to go forward in my Book. GOD was pleaſed to give me his

his Bleſſing, and I learned much faſter than I did before. But all this while I continued in ſecret Sin; and at length got acquainted with ſuch a Set of debauched, abandoned, atheiſtical Youths, that if GOD by his free, unmerited, and eſpecial Grace, had not delivered me out of their Hands, I ſhould long ſince have ſat in the Scorner's Chair, and made a Mock at Sin.—By keeping Company with them, my Thoughts of Religion grew more and more like theirs.—I went to public Service only to make ſport and walk about.—I took Pleaſure in their lewd Converſation.—I began to reaſon as they did, and to aſk why God had given me Paſſions, and not permitted me to gratify them? Not conſidering that GOD did not originally give us theſe *corrupt* Paſſions, and that he had promiſed Help to withſtand them, if we would aſk it of him.—In ſhort, I ſoon made a great Proficiency in the School of the Devil.—I affected to look rakiſh, and was in a fair Way of being as infamous as the worſt of them.

But (Oh ſtupendous Love!) GOD even here ſtopped me, when running on in a full Career to Hell.—For juſt as I was upon the Brink of Ruin, he gave me ſuch a Diſtaſte of their Principles and Practices, that I diſcovered them to my Maſter, who ſoon put a Stop to their Proceedings.

Being thus delivered out of the Snare of the Devil, I began to be more and more ſerious, and felt GOD at different Times working powerfully and convincingly upon my Soul One Day, in particular, as I was coming down Stairs, and overheard my Friends ſpeaking well of me, GOD ſo deeply convicted me of Hypocriſy, that tho' I had formed frequent but ineffectual Reſolutions before, yet I had then Power given me over my ſecret and darling Sin. Notwithſtanding, ſome Time after being overtaken in Liquor (as I have been twice or thrice in my Life-time) *Satan* gained his uſual Advantage over me again.—An experimental Proof to my poor Soul, how that wicked One makes uſe of Men as Machines, working them

up

up to just what he pleases, when by Intemperance they have chased away the Spirit of GOD from them!

Being now near the seventeenth Year of my Age, I was resolved to prepare myself for the holy Sacrament, which I received on *Christmas day*. I began now to be more and more watchful over my Thoughts, Words, and Actions. I kept the following *Lent*, fasting *Wednesday* and *Friday* thirty six Hours together.—My Evenings, when I had done waiting upon my Mother, were generally spent in Acts of Devotion, reading *Drelincourt* upon Death, and other practical Books, and I constantly went to publick Worship twice a Day. Being now upper Boy, by GOD's Help I made some Reformation amongst my Schoolfellows. I was very diligent in reading and learning the Classicks, and in studying my *Greek* Testament, but was not yet convinced of the absolute Unlawfulness of playing at Cards, and of reading and seeing Plays, tho' I began to have some scruples about it.

Near this Time I dreamed that I was to see GOD on Mount *Sinai*, but was afraid to meet him. This made a great Impression upon me. And a Gentlewoman to whom I told it, said, *George, this is a Call from GOD.*

Still I grew more serious after this Dream; but yet Hypocrisy crept into every Action.—As once I affected to look more rakish, I now strove to appear more grave than I really was.—However, an uncommon Concern and Alteration was visible in my Behaviour, and I often used to find fault with the Lightness of others.

One Night, as I was going on an Errand for my Mother, an unaccountable, but very strong Impression was made upon my Heart that I should preach and print quickly. When I came home, I innocently told my Mother what had befallen me; but she (like *Joseph's* Parents, when he told them his Dream) turned short upon me, crying out, *What does the Boy mean? Prithee hold thy Tongue*; or something to that

Purpoſe. GOD has ſince ſhewn her from what that Impreſſion came.

For a Twelvemonth I went on in a Round of Duties, receiving the Sacrament monthly, faſting frequently, attending conſtantly on publick Worſhip, and praying often more than twice a Day in private. ——One of my Brothers uſed to tel me, He feared this would not hold long, and that I ſhould forget all when I came to *Oxford*. This Caution did me much Service, for it ſet me upon praying for Perſeverance: And under GOD, the Preparation I made in the Country, was a Preſervative againſt the manifold Temptations which beſet me at my firſt coming to that ſeat of Learning.

Being now near eighteen Years old, it was judged proper for me to go to the Univerſity. GOD had ſweetly prepared my Way. The Friends before applied to, recommended me to the Maſter of *Pembroke-College*. Another Friend took up ten Pounds upon Bond (which I have ſince repaid) to defray the firſt Expence of entring;—and the Maſter, contrary to all Expectations, admitted me Servitor immediately.

Soon after my Admiſſion, I went and reſided, and found my having been uſed to a Publick-houſe was now of Service to me. For many of the Servitors being ſick at my firſt coming up, by my diligent and ready Attendance, I ingratiated myſelf into the Gentlemen's Favour ſo far, that many who had it in their Power choſe me to be their Servitor.

This much leſſened my Expence; and indeed, GOD was ſo gracious, that with the Profits of my Place, and ſome little Preſents made me by my kind Tutor, for almoſt the firſt three Years I did not put all my Relations together to above 24l. Expence. And it has often grieved my Soul to ſee ſo many young Students ſpending their Subſtance in extravagant Living, and thereby intirely unfitting themſelves for the Proſecution of their proper Studies.

I had not been long at the Univerſity, before I found the Benefit of the Foundation I had laid in the Country

Country for a holy Life. I was quickly folicited to join in their Exceſs of Riot with ſeveral who lay in the ſame Room. GOD, in Anſwer to Prayers before put up, gave me Grace to withſtand them; and once in particular, it being cold, my Limbs were ſo benumbed by ſitting alone in my ſtudy, becauſe I would not go out amongſt them, that I could ſcarce ſleep all Night. But I ſoon found the Benefit of not yielding: For when they perceived they could not prevail, they let me alone, as a ſingular odd Fellow.

All this while I was not fully ſatisfied of the Sin of playing at Cards and reading Plays; till GOD upon a Faſt day was pleaſed to convince me. For, taking a Play, to read a Paſſage out of it to a Friend, GOD ſtruck my Heart with ſuch Power, that I was obliged to lay it down again; and, bleſſed be his Name, I have not read any ſuch Book ſince.

Before I went to the Univerſity, I met with Mr. *Law's Serious Call to a devout Life*, but had not then Money to purchaſe it. Soon after my coming up to the Univerſity, ſeeing a ſmall Edition of it in a Friend's Hand, I ſoon procured it. GOD worked powerfully upon my Soul, as he has ſince upon many others, by that and his other Treatiſe upon *Chriſtian Perfection*.

I now began to pray and ſing Pſalms thrice every Day, beſides Morning and Evening, and to faſt every *Friday*, and to receive the Sacrament at a Pariſh-Church near our College; and at the Caſtle where the deſpiſed Methodiſts uſed to receive once a Month.

The young Men, ſo called, were then much talked of at *Oxford*. I had heard of, and loved them before I came to the Univerſity: and ſo ſtrenuouſly defended them, when I heard them reviled by the Students, that they began to think that I alſo in time ſhould be one of them.

For above a Twelvemonth, my Soul longed to be acquainted with ſome of them, and I was ſtrongly preſſed to follow their good Example, when I ſaw them go through a ridiculing Croud to receive the Holy Euchariſt at St. *Mary's*.—At length GOD was

pleaſed to open a Door.——It happened that a poor Woman in one of the Workhouſes had attempted to cut her Throat, but was happily prevented. Upon hearing of this, and knowing that both the Mr. *Weſleys* were ready to every good Work, I ſent a poor aged Apple-woman of our College to inform Mr. *Charles Weſley* of it, charging her not to diſcover who ſent her. She went; but contrary to my Orders, told my Name. He having heard of my coming to the Caſtle and a Pariſh-Church Sacrament, and having met me frequently walking by myſelf, followed the woman when ſhe was gone away, and ſent an Invitation to me by her, to come to Breakfaſt with him the next Morning.

I thankfully embraced the Opportunity; and, bleſſed be GOD, it was one of the moſt profitable Viſits I ever made in my Life.—My Soul, at that Time, was a-thirſt for ſome ſpiritual Friends to lift up my Hands when they hung down, and to ſtrengthen my feeble Knees.—He ſoon diſcovered it, and like a wiſe Winner of Souls, made all his Diſcourſes tend that Way.—And when he had put into my Hands Profeſſor *Frank's* Treatiſe againſt the Fear of Man, and a Book, intitled, *The Country Parſon's Advice to his Pariſhioners* (the laſt of which was wonderfully bleſſed to my Soul) I took my Leave.

In a ſhort Time he let me have another Book, intitled, *The Life of God in the Soul of Man*; and tho' I had faſted, watched and prayed, and received the Sacrament ſo long, yet I never knew what true Religion was, till GOD ſent me that Treatiſe by the Hands of my never to be forgotten Friend.

At my firſt reading it, I wondered what the Author meant by ſaying, "That ſome falſely placed Religion in going to Church, doing Hurt to no one, being conſtant in the Duties of the Cloſet, and now and then reaching out their Hands to give Alms to their poor Neighbours."—Alas! thought I, "If this be not Religion, what is?" GOD ſoon ſhewed me. For in Reading a few Lines further, that "true Re-

"ligion

" ligion was an Union of the Soul with GOD, and " *Chriſt* formed within us;" a Ray of divine Light was inſtantaneouſly darted in upon my Soul, and from that Moment, but not till then, did I know that I muſt be a new Creature.

Upon this (like the Woman of *Samaria*, when *Chriſt* revealed himſelf to her at the Well) I had no Reſt in my Soul till I wrote Letters to my Relations, telling them there was ſuch a Thing as the New-birth—I imagined they would have gladly received it.—But alas! my Words ſeemed to them as idle Tales!—They thought that I was going beſides myſelf, and by their Letters confirmed me in the Reſolutions I had taken not to go down into the Country, but continue where I was, leſt that by any Means the good Work which GOD had begun in my Soul, might be made of none Effect.

From time to time Mr. *Weſley* permitted me to come unto him, and inſtructed me as I was able to bear it.—By Degrees he introduced me to the reſt of his Chriſtian Brethren.—They built me up daily in the Knowledge and Fear of GOD, and taught me to endure Hardneſs like a good Soldier of *Jeſus Chriſt*.

I now began, like them, to live by Rule, and to pick up the very Fragments of my Time, that not a Moment of it might be loſt. Whether I ate or drank, or whatſoever I did, I endeavoured to do all to the Glory of GOD. Like them, having no weekly Sacrament (altho' the Rubrick required it) at our own College, I received every *Sunday* at *Chriſt Church*. I joined with them in keeping the Stations by faſting *Wedneſdays* and *Fridays*, and left no Means unuſed, which I thought would lead me nearer to *Jeſus Chriſt*.

Regular Retirement, Morning and Evening, at firſt I found ſome Difficulty in ſubmitting to; but it ſoon grew profitable and delightful. As I grew ripe for ſuch Exerciſes, I was from time to time engaged to viſit the Sick and the Priſoners, and to read to poor People, till I made it a Cuſtom, as moſt of us did, to ſpend an Hour every Day in doing Acts of Charity.

The Courſe of my Studies I ſoon intirely changed; whereas, before I was buſied in Studying the Dry Sciences, and Books that went no farther than the Surface, I now reſolved to read only ſuch as entered into the Heart of Religion, and which led me directly into an experimental Knowledge of *Jeſus Chriſt*; and him crucified.—The lively Oracles of GOD were my Soul's Delight.—The Book of the divine Laws was ſeldom out of my Hands; I meditated therein Day and Night, and ever ſince that GOD has made my Way ſignally proſperous, and given me abundant Succeſs.

GOD enabled me to do much Good to many, as well as to receive much from the deſpiſed Methodiſts, and made me inſtrumental in converting one who is lately come out into the Church, and, I truſt, will prove a burning and a ſhining Light.

Several ſhort Fits of Illneſs was GOD pleaſed to viſit and try me with, after my firſt Acquaintance with *Mr. Wesley*. My new Convert was a Help-meet for me in thoſe and in all other Circumſtances; and in Company with him, and ſeveral other Chriſtian Friends, did I ſpend many ſweet and delightful Hours.—Never did Perſons, I believe, ſtrive more earneſtly to enter in at the ſtrait Gate.—They kept their Bodies under, even to an Extreme.—They were dead to the World, and willing to be accounted as the Dung and Offſcouring of all things, ſo that they might win *Chriſt*.—Their Hearts glowed with the Love of GOD, and they never proſpered ſo much in the inward Man, as when they had all Manner of Evil ſpoken againſt them falſely without.

Many came amongſt them for a while, who, in Time of Temptation, fell away.—The Diſpleaſure of a Tutor or Head of a College, the changing of a Gown from a lower to the higher Degree; above all, a Thirſt for the Praiſe of Men, more than that which cometh from GOD, and a ſervile Fear of Contempt, cauſed Numbers that had ſet their Hand to the Plow, ſhamefully to look back.—The World (and not themſelves)

ſelves) gave them the Title of Methodiſts, I ſuppoſe from their Cuſtom of regulating their Time, and planning the Buſineſs of the Day every Morning.—Mr. *John* and *Charles Wefleys*, were two of the firſt that thus openly dared to confeſs *Chriſt*; and they, under GOD, were the ſpiritual Fathers of moſt of them.—They had the Pleaſure of ſeeing the Work of the Lord proſper in their Hands before they went to *Georgia*.—Since their Return, the ſmall Grain of Muſtard-ſeed has ſprung up apace.---It has taken deep Root.—It is growing into a great Tree.—Ere long I truſt it will fill the Land, and Numbers of Souls will come from the Eaſt and from the Weſt, from the North and from the South, and lodge under the Branches of it.

But to return. Whilſt I was thus comforted on every Side, by daily converſing with ſo many Chriſtian Friends. GOD was pleaſed to permit *Satan* to ſift me like Wheat. A general Account of which, I ſhall, by the divine Aſſiſtance, give in the following Section.

SECT. II.

A brief and ſummary Account of my Temptations.

AT my firſt ſetting out, in Compaſſion to my Weakneſs, I grew in Favour both with GOD and Man, and uſed to be much lifted up with ſenſible Devotion, eſpecially at the bleſſed Sacrament.——But when Religion began to take Root in my Heart, and I was fully convinced my Soul muſt totally be renewed ere it could ſee GOD, I was viſited with outward and inward Trials.

The firſt thing I was called to give up for GOD, was what the World calls my fair reputation.——I had

had no ſooner received the Sacrament publickly on a Week-day at St. *Mary*'s, but I was ſet up as a Mark for all the polite Students that knew me to ſhoot at. By this they knew that I was commenced Methodiſt; for tho' there is a Sacrament at the Beginning of every Term, at which all, eſpecially the Seniors, are, by Statute, obliged to be preſent; yet ſo dreadfully has that once faithful City played the Harlot, that very few Maſters, and no Under-graduates (but the Methodiſts) attend upon it.

Mr. *Charles Weſley* (whom I muſt always mention with the greateſt *Deference* and Reſpect) walked with me (in order to confirm me) from the Church even to the College.—I confeſs, to my Shame, I would gladly have excuſed him; and the next Day going to his Room, one of our Fellows paſſing by, I was aſhamed to be ſeen to knock at his Door. But, bleſſed be GOD, this Fear of Man gradually wore off.—As I had imitated *Nicodemus* in his Cowardice, ſo, by the divine Aſſiſtance, I followed him in his Courage.——I confeſſed the Methodiſts more and more publickly every Day.—I walked openly with them, and choſe rather to bear Contempt with thoſe People of GOD, than to enjoy the Applauſe of Almoſt-Chriſtians for a Seaſon.

Soon after this I incurred the Diſpleaſure of the Maſter of the College, who frequently chid, and once threatened to expel me, if ever I viſited the Poor again.—Being ſurprized by this Treatment, and overawed by his Authority, I ſpake unadviſedly with my Lips, and ſaid, if it diſpleaſed him, I would not.——My Conſcience ſoon pricked me for this ſinful Compliance.—I immediately repented, and viſited the Poor the firſt Opportunity, and told my Companions, if ever I was called to a Stake for *Chriſt*'s Sake, I would ſerve my Tongue as Archbiſhop *Cranmer* ſerved his Hand, *viz.* make that burn firſt.

My Tutor being a moderate Man, did not oppoſe me much, but thought, I believe, that I went a little too far. He lent me Books, gave me Money, viſited

viſited me, and furniſhed me with a Phyſician when ſick. In ſhort, he behaved in all reſpects like a Father; and I truſt GOD will remember him for Good, in anſwer to the many Prayers I have put up in his Behalf.

My Relations were quickly alarmed at the Alteration of my Behaviour, conceived ſtrong Prejudices againſt me, and, for ſome Time, counted my Life Madneſs.—I daily underwent ſome Contempt at College. Some have thrown Dirt at me; others, by Degrees, took away their Pay from me.—And two Friends, that were dear to me, grew ſhy of, and forſook me, when they ſaw me reſolved to deny myſelf, take up my Croſs daily, and follow *Jeſus Chriſt*. —But our Lord, by his Spirit, ſoon convinced me that I muſt know no one after the Fleſh; and I ſoon found that Promiſe literally fulfilled, "That no one "hath left Father or Mother, Brethren or Siſters, "Houſes or Lands, for *Chriſt's* Sake and the Goſ- "pel's, but he ſhall receive a hundred fold in this "Life, with Perſecution, as well as eternal Life in "the World to come."

Theſe, tho' little, were uſeful Trials.—They inured me to Contempt, leſſened Self-love, and taught me to die daily.—My inward Sufferings were of a more uncommon Nature.—*Satan* ſeemed to have deſired me in particular to ſift me as Wheat.—GOD permitted him, for wiſe reaſons I have ſeen already, *viz.* that his future Bleſſings might not prove my Ruin.

From my firſt Awakenings to the divine Life, I felt a particular hungering and thirſting after the Humility of *Jeſus Chriſt*.—Night and Day I prayed to be a Partaker of that Grace, imagining that the Habit of Humility would be inſtantaneouſly infuſed into my Soul. But as *Gideon* taught the Men of *Succoth* with Thorns, ſo GOD (if I am yet in any Meaſure bleſſed with true poverty of Spirit) taught it me by the Exerciſe of ſtrong Temptations.

I ob-

I obſerved before how I uſed to be favoured with ſenſible Devotion; thoſe Comforts were ſoon withdrawn, and an horrible Fearfulneſs and Dread permitted to overwhelm my Soul.—One Morning in particular, riſing from my Bed I felt an unuſual Impreſſion and Weight upon my Breaſt, attended with inward Darkneſs.—I applied to my Friend Mr. *Charles Weſley*;—he adviſed me to keep upon my Watch, and referred me to a Chapter in *Kempis*.

In a ſhort Time I perceived this Load gradually increaſe, till it almoſt weighed me down, and fully convinced me that *Satan* had as real a Poſſeſſion of, and Power given over my Body, as he had once over *Job's*—All Power of meditating, or even thinking, was taken from me.—My Memory quite failed me.——My whole Soul was barren and dry, and I could fancy myſelf to be like nothing ſo much as a Man locked up in Iron Armour.

Whenever I kneeled down, I felt great Heavings in my Body and have often prayed under the Weight of them till the Sweat came through me. At this Time *Satan* uſed to terrify me much, and threatened to puniſh me if I diſcovered his Wiles.—It being my Duty, as Servitor, in my Turn to knock at the Gentlemens' Rooms by Ten at Night, to ſee who were in their Rooms, I thought the Devil would appear to me every Stair I went up.—And he ſo troubled me when I lay down to Reſt, that for ſome Weeks I ſcarce ſlept above three Hours at a Time.

GOD only knows how many Nights I have lain upon my Bed, groaning under the Weight I felt, and bidding *Satan* depart from me in the Name of *Jeſus*.—Whole Days and Weeks have I ſpent in lying proſtrate on the Ground, and begging for Freedom from thoſe proud helliſh Thoughts that uſed to crowd in upon, and diſtract my Soul.—But GOD made *Satan* drive out *Satan*—For theſe Thoughts and Suggeſtions created ſuch a Self-Abhorrence within me, that I never ceaſed wreſtling with GOD, till he bleſſed me with a Victory over them.—Self-love, Self-will, Pride and

and Envy, ſo buffetted me in their Turns, that I was reſolved either to die or conquer.—I wanted to ſee Sin as it was, but feared, at the ſame time, leſt the Sight of it ſhould terrify me to Death.

Whilſt my inward Man was thus exerciſed, my outward Man was not unemployed. I ſoon found what a ſlave I had been to my ſenſual Appetite, and now reſolved to get the Maſtery over it by the Help of *Jeſus Chriſt*.—Accordingly, by Degrees I began to leave off eating Fruits and ſuch like, and gave the Money I uſually ſpent in that Way to the Poor.—Afterward I always choſe the worſt Sort of Food, tho' my Place furniſhed me with Variety.—I faſted twice a Week.—My Apparel was mean.—I thought it unbecoming a Penitent to have his Hair powdered.—I wore woollen Gloves, a patched Gown and dirty Shoes:—and tho' I was then convinced that the Kingdom of GOD did not conſiſt in Meats and Drinks, yet I reſolutely perſiſted in theſe voluntary Acts of Self-denial, becauſe I found them great Promoters of the ſpiritual Life.

For many Months I went on in this State, faint, yet purſuing, and travelling along in the dark, in hope that the Star I had (before once) ſeen, would hereafter appear again.—During this Seaſon I was very active; but finding Pride creeping in at the End of almoſt every Thought, Word and Action, and meeting with *Caſtaniza's Spiritual Combat*, in which he ſays, "That he that is employed in mortifying his "Will, was as well employed as tho' he was con-"verting *Indians*," or Words to that Effect. *Satan* ſo impoſed upon my Underſtanding, that he perſuaded me to ſhut myſelf up in my Study, till I could do good with a ſingle Eye, leſt in endeavouring to ſave others, as I did now, I ſhould, at laſt, by Pride and Self-complacence, loſe myſelf.

Henceforward he transformed himſelf into an Angel of Light, and worked ſo artfully, that I imagined the good, and not the evil Spirit ſuggeſted to me every Thing that I did.

His

His main Drift was to lead me into a ſtate of Quietiſm, (He generally plowed with GOD's Heifer) and when the Holy Spirit put into my Heart good Thoughts or Convictions, he always drove them to Extremes.—For Inſtance, having out of Pride, put down in my Diary what I gave away, *Satan* tempted me to lay my Diary quite aſide.—When *Caſſaniza* adviſed to talk but little, *Satan* ſaid I muſt not talk at all.—So that I, who uſed to be the moſt forward in exhorting my Companions, have ſat whole Nights almoſt without ſpeaking at all. Again, when *Caſſaniza* adviſed to endeavour after a ſilent Recollection and waiting upon GOD, *Satan* told me I muſt leave off all Forms, and not uſe my Voice in Prayer at all. —The Time would fail me to recount all the Inſtances of this Kind in which he had deceived me.——But when Matters came to an Extreme, GOD always ſhewed me my Error, and, by his Spirit, pointed out a Way for me to eſcape.

The Devil alſo ſadly impoſed upon me in the Matter of my College Exerciſes.—Whenever I endeavoured to compoſe my Theme, I had no Power to write a Word, nor ſo much as tell my Chriſtian Friends of my Inability to do it.—*Saturday* being come (which is the Day the Students give up their Compoſitions) it was ſuggeſted to me, that I muſt go down into the Hall, and confeſs I could not make a Theme, and ſo publickly ſuffer, as if it were for my Maſter's Sake. When the Bell rung to call us, I went to open the Door to go down ſtairs, but feeling ſomething give me a violent inward Check, I entered my Study, and continued inſtant in Prayer, waiting the Event.—For this my Tutor fined me half a Crown. The next Week *Satan* ſerved me in like Manner again;—But having now got more Strength, and perceiving no inward Check, I went into the Hall.—My Name being called, I ſtood up, and told my Tutor I could not make a Theme.—I think he fined me a ſecond Time; but imagining that I would not willingly neglect my Exerciſe, he afterwards cal-

led

led me into the common Room, and kindly enquired whether any Misfortune had befallen me or what was the Reaſon I could not make a Theme? I burſt into Tears and aſſured him that it was not out of Contempt of Authority, but that I could not act otherwiſe. Then at length he ſaid, he believed I could not; and when he left me, told a Friend (as he very well might) that he took me to be really mad.—— This friend hearing from my Tutor what had happened, came to me urging the Command in Scripture to be ſubject to the higher Powers. I anſwered, Yes; but I had a new Revelation. Lord, what is Man!

As I daily got Strength, by continued, tho' almoſt ſilent Prayer, in my Study, my Temptations grew ſtronger alſo, particularly for two or three Days before Deliverance came.—Near five or ſix Weeks I had now ſpent in my Study, except when I was obliged to go out. During this Time I was fighting with my Corruptions, and did little elſe beſides kneeling down by my Bed-ſide, feeling as it were a heavy preſſure upon my Body, as well as an unſpeakable Oppreſſion of Mind, yet offering up my Soul to GOD, to do with me as it pleaſed him. It was now ſuggeſted to me, that *Jeſus Chriſt* was amongſt the wild Beaſts when he was tempted, and that I ought to follow his Example; and being willing as I thought, to imitate *Jeſus Chriſt*, after Supper I went into *Chriſt-Church* Walk, near our College, and continued in ſilent Prayer under one of the Trees for near two Hours, ſometimes lying flat on my Face, ſometimes kneeling upon my Knees, all the while filled with Fear and Concern leſt ſome of my Brethren ſhould be overwhelmed with Pride.—The night being ſtormy, it gave me awful thoughts of the Day of Judgment. I continued I think till the great Bell rung for Retirement to the College, not without finding ſome Reluctance in the natural Man againſt ſtaying ſo long in the Cold.

The next Night I repeated the ſame Exerciſe at the ſame Place. But the Hour of Extremity being now come, GOD was pleaſed to make an open Shew of thoſe Diabolical Devices by which I had been deceived.

By this Time I had left off keeping my Diary, uſing my Forms, or ſcarce my Voice in Prayer, viſiting the Priſoners, *&c.* Nothing remained for me to leave, unleſs I forſook publick Worſhip, but my religious Friends.—Now it was ſuggeſted that I muſt leave them alſo for *Chriſt*'s Sake.—This was a ſore Trial, but rather than not be, as I fancied, *Chriſt*'s Diſciple, I reſolved to renouce them, tho' as dear to me as my own Soul.—Accordingly the next Day being *Wedneſday*, whereon we kept one of our weekly Faſts, inſtead of meeting with my Brethren as uſual, I went out in the Fields, and I prayed ſilently by myſelf.—Our evening meeting I neglected alſo, and went not to Breakfaſt according to Appointment, with Mr. *Charles Weſley* the Day following.—This, with many other concurring Circumſtances, made my honoured Friend, Mr. *Charles Weſley*, ſuſpect ſomething more than ordinary was the Matter. He came to my Room, ſoon found out my Caſe; apprized me of my Danger if I would not take Advice, and recommended me to his Brother *John*, Fellow of *Lincoln-College*, as more experienced in the ſpiritual Life. GOD gave me (Bleſſed be his holy Name!) a teachable Temper; I waited upon his Brother, with whom from that time I had the Honour of growing intimate.—He adviſed me to reſume all my Externals, tho' not to *depend* on them in the leaſt.—From time to time he gave me Directions as my various and pitiable State required; and at length by his excellent Advice and Management of me, under GOD, I was delivered from thoſe Wiles of *Satan*.—Praiſe the Lord, O my Soul, and all that is within me praiſe his holy Name!

During this, and all other Seaſons of Temptation, my Soul was inwardly ſupported with great Courage and

and Reſolution from above.—Every Day GOD made me willing to renew the Combat, and tho' my Soul, when quite empty of GOD, was very prone to ſeek Satisfaction in the Creature, and ſometimes I fell into Senſuality, yet I was generally enabled to wait in Silence for the Salvation of GOD, or to perſiſt in Prayer, till ſome Beams of ſpiritual Light and Comfort were vouchſafed me from on high. *Thomas a Kempis*, (ſince tranſlated and publiſhed by Mr. *John Weſley*) *Caſtaniza's* Combat, and the *Greek* Teſtament (every Reading of which I endeavoured to turn into a Prayer) were of great Help and Furtherance to me. On receiving the holy Sacrament, eſpecially before Trials, I have found Grace in a very affecting Manner, and in abundant Meaſure ſometimes imparted to my Soul; an irrefragable Proof to me of the miſerable Deluſion of the Author of that called, *The plain Account of the Sacrament*, which ſinks that holy Ordinance into a bare Memorial, who, if he obſtinately refuſes the inſtruction of the Moſt High, will doubtleſs, without Repentance, bear his Puniſhment, whoſoever he be.

To proceed. I had now taken up my Externals again;—and tho' *Satan* for ſome Weeks had been biting my Heel, GOD was pleaſed to ſhew me that I ſhould ſoon bruiſe his Head.—A few Days after, as I was walking along, I met with a poor Woman, whoſe Huſband was then in *Bocardo* or *Oxford* Town-Goal, which I conſtantly viſited. Seeing her much diſcompoſed, I enquired the Cauſe.——She told me, not being able to bear the crying of her Children, ready to periſh for Hunger, and having nothing to relieve them, ſhe had been to drown herſelf, but was mercifully prevented, and ſaid ſhe was coming to my Room to inform me of it.——I gave her ſome immediate Relief, and deſired her to meet me at the Priſon with her Huſband in the Afternoon.—She came, and there GOD viſited them both by his free Grace;—ſhe was powerfully quickened from above; and when I had done reading, he came to me like the

trembling Goaler, and graſping my Hand, cried out, "I am upon the Brink of Hell!"——From this Time forward both of them grew in Grace.—God, by his Providence, ſoon delivered him from his Confinement.——Tho' notorious Offenders againſt God and one another before, yet now they become Helps meet for each other in the great Work of their Salvation.—They are both now living, and, I truſt, will be my Joy and Crown of rejoicing in the great Day of our Lord *Jeſus*.

Soon after this the holy Seaſon of *Lent* came on, which our Friends kept very ſtrictly, eating no Fleſh during the ſix Weeks, except on *Saturdays* and *Sundays*. I abſtained frequently on *Saturday*, alſo, and ate nothing on the other Days, (except on *Sunday*) but Sage-tea without Sugar, and coarſe Bread.—I conſtantly walked out in the cold Mornings, till Part of one of my Hands was quite black.—This with my continued Abſtinence, and inward Conflicts, at length ſo emaciated my Body, that at Paſſion-week, finding I could ſcarce creep up Stairs, I was obliged to inform my kind Tutor of my Condition, who immediately ſent for a Phyſician to me.

This cauſed no ſmall Triumph amongſt the Collegians, who began to cry out, "What is his Faſting "come to now?" But I rejoiced in this Reproach, knowing that tho' I had been imprudent, and loſt much of my Fleſh, yet I had nevertheleſs increaſed in the Spirit.

This Fit of Sickneſs continued upon me for ſeven Weeks, and a glorious Viſitation it was.—The bleſſed Spirit was all this Time purifying my Soul.—— All my former groſs and notorious, and even my Heart-ſins alſo, were now ſet home upon me, of which I wrote down ſome Remembrance immediately, and confeſſed them before God, Morning and Evening.—Tho' weak I often ſpent two Hours in my Evening Retirements, and prayed over my *Greek* Teſtament and Biſhop *Hall*'s moſt excellent Contemplations, every Hour that my Health would permit.

About

About the End of the ſeven Weeks, and after I had been groaning under an unſpeakable Preſſure both of Body and Mind for above a Twelve-month; GOD was pleaſed to ſet me free in the following Manner. ——One Day, perceiving an uncommon Drought, and a diſagreeable Clammineſs in my Mouth, and uſing Things to allay my Thirſt, but in vain, it was ſuggeſted to me, that when *Jeſus Chriſt* cried out, "I thirſt," his Sufferings were near at an End. Upon which, I caſt myſelf down on the Bed, crying out, I thirſt! I thirſt! and acted Faith upon a crucified *Jeſus*, bleeding for me in particular.——Soon after this, I found and felt in myſelf, that I was delivered from the Burden that had ſo heavily oppreſſed me! The Spirit of Mourning was taken from me, and I knew what it was truly to rejoice in GOD my Saviour, and, for ſome Time, could not avoid ſinging Pſalms wherever I was; but my Joy gradually became more ſettled, and, bleſſed be GOD, has abode and increaſed in my Soul (ſaving a few caſual Intermiſſions) ever ſince!

Thus were the Days of my Mourning ended.—After a long Night of Deſertion and Temptation, the Star, which I had ſeen at a Diſtance before, began to appear again, and the Day-Star aroſe in my Heart.—Now did the Spirit of GOD take Poſſeſſion of my Soul, and, as I humbly hope, ſeal me unto the Day of Redemption.

SECT. III.

From the Time of my firſt leaving the Univerſity to go to Glouceſter, *till the Time of my Ordination.*

AS faſt as I got Strength after my Sickneſs, my Tutor, Phyſician, and ſome others, were ſtill urging me to go into the Country, hoping thereby

to divert me, as they thought, from a too intenſe Application to Religion.—I had, for ſome Time, been aware of their Deſign, and wrote Letters, beſeeching my Mother, if ſhe valued my Soul, not to lay her Commands on me to come down. She was pleaſed to leave me to my Choice; but finding at laſt it was neceſſary for my Health, and many other providential Circumſtances pointing out my Way, after earneſt Prayer for Support, by the Advice of my Friends, I left my ſweet Retirement at *Oxford*, and went to *Glouceſter*, the Place of my Nativity.

Having now obtained Mercy from GOD, and received the Spirit of Adoption in my Heart, my Friends were ſurprized to ſee me look and behave ſo chearfully, after the many Reports they had heard concerning me. However, I ſoon found myſelf to be as a Sheep ſent forth amongſt Wolves in Sheeps Cloathing: For they immediately endeavoured to diſſuade me (as they had lately done a Friend that began with me) from a conſtant Uſe of the Means of Grace, eſpecially from weekly Abſtinence, and receiving the bleſſed Sacrament —But GOD enabled me to reſiſt them ſtedfaſt in the Faith, and by keeping cloſe to him in his holy Ordinances, I was made to triumph over all.

Being unaccuſtomed for ſome Time to live without ſpiritual Companions, and finding none that would join heartily with me, no, not one, I watched unto Prayer all the Day long, beſeeching GOD to raiſe me ſome religious Aſſociates in his own Way and Time.

"I will endeavour either to find or make a Friend," had been my Reſolution now for ſome Time; and therefore, after importunate Prayer one Day, I reſolved to go to the Houſe of one Mrs. *W*———, to whom I had formerly read Plays, Spectators, *Pope's Homer*, and ſuch like trifling Books,—hoping the Alteration ſhe now would find in my Sentiments, might, under GOD, influence her Soul.—GOD was pleaſed to bleſs the Viſit with the deſired Effect.—She received

ed the Word gladly.—She wanted to be taught the Way of God more perfectly, and ſoon became a Fool for *Chriſt's* Sake.—Not long after, God made me inſtrumental to awaken ſeveral young Perſons, who ſoon formed themſelves into a little Society, and had quickly the Honour of being deſpiſed at *Glouceſter*, as we had been before them at *Oxford:* Thus, *all* that will live godly in *Jeſus Chriſt*, muſt ſuffer Perſecution.

My Mind being now more open and enlarged, I began to read the holy Scriptures (upon my Knees) laying aſide all other Books, and praying over, if poſſible, every Line and Word.—This proved Meat indeed, and Drink indeed, to my Soul.—I daily received freſh Life, Light, and Power from above.—I got more true Knowledge from reading the Book of God in one Month, than I could *Ever* have acquired from *All* the Writings of Men.—In one Word, I found it profitable for Reproof, for Correction, for Inſtruction in Righteouſneſs, every Way ſufficient to make the Man of God perfect, throughly furniſhed unto every good Word and Work.

During my Abſence from *Oxford*, I ſpent three Weeks at *Briſtol*, whither I went to ſee ſome Relations, but could not do them much Good, becauſe of the Prejudices they had conceived againſt me.—However, I daily walked with God, and going to viſit an Aunt, when in an Alms-houſe there, God brought in my Way a young Woman, who was hungering and thirſting after Righteouſneſs.—She received the Word into an honeſt and good Heart, and ſince has proved a true Follower of *Jeſus Chriſt*.—So gracious was the Lord, even in theſe my very early Days, not to leave himſelf without Witneſs, in that he *thus* vouchſafed to bleſs my poor Endeavours in *every* Place whereto his Providence *now* ſent me!

According to his abundant Mercy he alſo raiſed me up ſome temporal Supplies. For ſome conſiderable Time I had followed the Example of Profeſſor *Frank*, and whenever I wanted any worldly Aſſiſtance, pleaded

ed the Scripture Promiſes for the Things of this Life, as well as that which is to come, in the Name of *Jeſus Chriſt*.—This is ſtill my Practice, and I never yet failed of Succeſs.—When I came from *Oxford*, on account of my Sickneſs, and other extraordinary and unavoidable Expences, I owed, I think, about twelve or thirteen Pounds; and when I went to *Briſtol*, I was ſo poor, that I was obliged to borrow Money of my kind Hoſteſs, Mrs. *H*———, with whom I lodged at *Glouceſter* (and whoſe Huſband and Family I pray GOD eternally to bleſs) to bear my Charges on the Road. This, I bleſs GOD, did not diſhearten me; but I continued pleading the Promiſes in the Name of *Chriſt*, and ſoon after my coming to *Briſtol* I received an anſwer.—For a Brother of mine coming from Sea, GOD inclined him to give me four Guineas, and ſome other neceſſaries. And when I returned to *Glouceſter* (as I did after I had continued a ſhort Time at *Briſtol*) thoſe I expected ſhould aſſiſt me, did not; but Perſons I never ſpoke to, and who, I thought, were my Enemies, were raiſed up to ſupply my Wants, and fulfil that Promiſe which I always pleaded, "Seek firſt the King-"dom of GOD and his Righteouſneſs, and all theſe "Things ſhall be added unto you."

Oh, what ſweet communion had I daily vouchſafed from GOD in Prayer after my coming again to *Glouceſter*!—How often have I been carried out beyond myſelf when ſweetly meditating in the Fields!—How aſſuredly have I felt that *Chriſt* dwelt in me; and I in him, and how did I daily walk in the Comforts of the Holy Ghoſt, and was edified and refreſhed in the Multitude of Peace! Not that I was always upon the Mount, ſometimes a Cloud would overſhadow me: But the Sun of Righteouſneſs quickly aroſe and diſpelled it, and I knew it was *Jeſus Chriſt* that revealed himſelf to my Soul.

I always obſerved, as my inward Strength increaſed, ſo my outward Sphere of Action increaſed proportionably.—In a ſhort Time therefore, I began to read to

ſome

ſome poor People twice or thrice a Week.—I likewiſe viſited two other little Societies beſides my own, and almoſt every Day, both then, and ſince, have found the Benefit of being tempted myſelf, becauſe that alone taught me how to give proper Advice to thoſe that came to me when tempted.

Occaſionally, as Buſineſs and Opportunity permitted, I generally viſited one or two ſick Perſons every Day, and tho' Silver and Gold I had little, of my own, yet, in Imitation of my Lord's Diſciples, who intreated in the Behalf of the fainting Multitude, I uſed to pray unto him; and he, from time to time, inclined ſeveral that were rich in this World to give me Money; ſo that I generally had a little Stock for the Poor always in my Hand. One of the Poor whom I viſited in this Manner, was called effectually by GOD as at the eleventh Hour: She was a Woman about threeſcore Years old, and, I really believe, died in the true Faith of *Jeſus Chriſt*.

About this Time GOD was pleaſed to enlighten my Soul, and bring me into the Knowledge of his free Grace, and the Neceſſity of being juſtified in his Sight by *Faith only*; this was more extraordinary, becauſe my Friends at *Oxford* had rather inclined to the Myſtic Divinity.—And one of them (a dear Servant of the Lord) lately confeſſed he did not like me ſo well when at *Oxford*, as the reſt of his Brethren, becauſe I held Juſtification by Faith *only*.—And yet he obſerved I had moſt ſucceſs.—But, bleſſed be GOD, moſt of us have now been taught this Doctrine of *Chriſt*, and, I hope, ſhall be willing to die in the Defence of it. It is the good old Doctrine of the Church of *England*; it is what the holy Martyrs in Queen *Mary's* Time ſealed with their Blood, and which, I pray GOD, if need be, that I and my Brethren may ſeal with ours.

Burkit's and *Henry's Expoſitions* were of admirable Uſe to lead me into *this*, and all other Goſpel Truths. For many Months have I been almoſt all way-

ways upon my Knees, to ſtudy and pray over theſe Books.—The Holy Spirit from time to time has led me into the Knowledge of divine Things, and I have been directed, by watching and reading the Scripture in this Manner, even in the minuteſt Circumſtances as plainly as the *Jews* were, when conſulting the *Urim* and *Thummim* at the High-Prieſt's Breaſt!

Allen's Alarm, *Baxter's Call to the Unconverted*, and *Janeway's Life*, which I read at leiſure Hours, much benefited me. I bleſs GOD, the Partition-wall of Bigotry and Sect-religion was ſoon broken down in my Heart.—For as ſoon as the Love of GOD was ſhed abroad in my Soul, I loved all of whatever Denomination, that loved the Lord *Jeſus* in Sincerity of Heart.

During my Stay here, GOD enabled me to give a public Teſtimony of my Repentance as to ſeeing and acting Plays.—For hearing the Strollers were coming to town, and knowing what an egregious Offender I had been, I wreſtled with GOD in Prayer to put me in a Way to manifeſt my Abhorrence of my former Sin and Folly. In anſwer to this, I was ſtirred up to extract Mr. *Law's* excellent Treatiſe, intitled, *The abſolute Unlawfulneſs of the Stage-Entainment*.—GOD gave me Favour in the Printer's Sight; and at my Requeſt he put a little of it in the News for ſix Weeks ſucceſſively, and GOD was pleaſed to give it his Bleſſing.

Having been abſent for about ſix Months from the Univerſity, I thought it Time to think of returning thither; but before I came to a Reſolution, was convinced of the contrary.

At my firſt coming to *Glouceſter*, being uſed to viſit the Priſoners at *Oxford*, I prayed moſt earneſtly that GOD would open a Door for me to viſit the Priſoners here alſo. Quickly after, I dreamed that one of the Priſoners came to be inſtructed by me; and it was impreſſed much upon my heart.—In the Morning I went to the Door of the County Goal; I knocked,

I knocked, but no Body came to open it.—I thought the Hour was not yet come.—I waited ſtill upon GOD in Prayer, and in ſome Months after came a Letter from a Friend at *Oxford*, deſiring me to go to one *Pebworth*, who was broken out of *Oxford* Goal, and was retaken at *Glouceſter*. As ſoon as I read this Letter, it appeared to me that my Prayer was now anſwered. Immediately I went to the Priſon, aſſuredly gathering that the Lord called me thither.—I met with the Perſon, and finding him and ſome others willing to hear the Word of GOD, having gained Leave of the Keeper and two Ordinaries, I conſtantly read to, and prayed with them every Day I was in town.—I alſo begged money for them, whereby I was enabled to releaſe ſome of them, and cauſe Proviſion to be diſtributed weekly amongſt them, as alſo to put ſuch Books into their Hands as I judged moſt proper.—I cannot ſay any one of the Priſoners was effectually wrought upon; however, much Evil was prevented, many were convinced, and my own Soul was much edified and ſtrengthened in the Love of GOD and Man.

Thus employed I continued in my own City three Months longer.—Deſpiſed indeed by Man, but highly bleſſed by the Grace of GOD.—My Underſtanding was enlightened, my Will broken, and my Affections more and more enlivened with a Zeal for *Chriſt*.—Many ſuch, I believe, were added to our little Society as ſhall be ſaved.—Freſh Supplies came from unexpected Hands to defray my Expences at the Univerſity.—And at the end of nine Months I returned thither, to the mutual Joy and Comfort of my Friends, till I was called to enter into Holy Orders.—The particular Circumſtances of which I ſhall relate in the following Section.

SECT.

SECT. IV.

Of my Preparation for Holy Orders.

FROM the Time I firſt entered at the Univerſity, eſpecially from the Time I knew what was true and undefiled Chriſtianity, I entertained high Thoughts of the Importance of the Miniſterial Office, and was not ſolicitous what Place ſhould be prepared for me, but How I ſhould be prepared for a Place. That Saying of the Apoſtle, "Not a Novice, leſt being "puffed up with Pride, he fall into the Condemna- "tion of the Devil;" And that firſt Queſtion of our excellent Ordination Office, "Do you truſt that you "are *inwardly moved* by the Holy Ghoſt to take "upon you this Office and Adminiſtration?" uſed even to make me tremble whenever I thought of entering into the Miniſtry. The Shyneſs that *Moſes* and ſome other Prophets expreſſed, when GOD ſent them out in a public Capacity, I thought was ſufficient to teach me not to run till I was called.—— He who knoweth the Hearts of Men, is Witneſs that I never prayed more earneſtly againſt any Thing, than I did againſt entering into the Service of the Church *ſo ſoon*.—Oftentimes I have been in an Agony in Prayer, when under Convictions of my Inſufficiency for ſo great a Work.—With ſtrong Cryings and Tears I have often ſaid, "Lord, I am a Youth "of uncircumciſed Lips; Lord, ſend me not into "thy Vineyard yet;" And ſometimes I had Reaſon to think GOD was angry with me for reſiſting his Will. However, I was reſolved to pray *thus*, as long as I could. If GOD did not grant my Requeſt in keeping me out of *it*, I knew his Grace would be ſufficient to ſupport and ſtrengthen me whenever he ſent me into the Miniſtry.

To

To my Prayers I added my Endeavours, and wrote Letters to my Friends at *Oxford*, beſeeching them to pray to GOD to diſappoint the Deſigns of my Country Friends, who were for my taking Orders as ſoon as poſſible. Their anſwer was, "Pray we the Lord "of the Harveſt to ſend thee and many more La- "bourers into his Harveſt." Another old and worthy Miniſter of *Chriſt*, when I wrote to him about the Meaning of the Word *Novice*, anſwered, it meant a *Novice* in Grace, and not in Years; and he was pleaſed to add, if St. *Paul* were then at *Glouceſter*, he believed St. *Paul* would ordain me.—All this did not ſatisfy me.—I ſtill continued inſtant in Prayer againſt going into Holy Orders, and was not thoroughly convinced it was the divine Will, till GOD, by his Providence, brought me acquainted with the preſent Biſhop of *Glouceſter*.

Before I converſed with his Lordſhip, GOD was pleaſed to give me previous Notice of it. Long ere I had the leaſt proſpect of being called before the Biſhop, I dreamed one Night, I was talking with him in his Palace, and that he gave me ſome Gold, which ſeemed to ſound again in my hand.—Afterward this Dream would often come into my Mind; and whenever I ſaw the Biſhop at Church, a ſtrong Perſuaſion would ariſe in my Mind that I ſhould very ſhortly go to him: I always checked it, and prayed to GOD to preſerve me from ever deſiring that honour which cometh of Man.—One afternoon it happened that the Biſhop took a ſolitary Walk, (as I was told afterwards) to the old Lady *Selwyn's* near *Glouceſter*, who, not long before had made me a Preſent of a Piece of Gold. She, I found, recommended me to the Biſhop; and a few Days after, as I was coming from the Cathedral Prayers, thinking of no ſuch Thing, one of the Vergers called after me, and ſaid, the Biſhop deſired to ſpeak with me, I forgetful at that Time of my Dream, immediately turned back, conſidering within myſelf what I had done to deſerve

his Lordſhip's Diſpleaſure. When I came to the Top of the Palace Stairs, the Biſhop took me by the Hand, told me he was glad to ſee me, and bid me to wait a little till he had put off his Habit, and he would return to me again. This gave me an Opportunity of praying to GOD for his Aſſiſtance, and adoring him for his Providence over me.

At his coming again into the Room, the Biſhop told me had heard of my Character, liked my Behaviour at Church, and enquiring my Age, "Notwithſtanding, ſays he, I have declared I would not "ordain any one under three and twenty, yet I "ſhall think it my Duty to ordain you whenever "you come for Holy Orders." He then made me a Preſent of Five Guineas to buy me a Book, which ſounding again in my Hand, put me in mind of my Dream; whereupon my Heart was filled with a Senſe of GOD's Love.

Before I came home this News had reached my Friends; who, being fond of my having ſuch a great Man's Favour, were very ſolicitous to know the Event of my Viſit. Many Things I hid from them; but when they preſſed me hard, I was obliged to to tell them how the Biſhop, of his own Accord, had offered to give me Holy Orders whenever I would. On which they, knowing how I had depended on the Declaration his Lordſhip had made ſome Time ago, that he would ordain none under three and twenty, ſaid,—and I then began to think myſelf, "That if I held out any longer, I ſhould fight "againſt GOD."—At length I came to a reſolution, by GOD's Leave, to offer myſelf for Holy Orders the next Ember-days.

The only Thing now in Diſpute was, into what Part of my Lord's Vineyard I ſhould be ſent to labour firſt.—GOD had given me much Succeſs in *Glouceſter*; and my Friends being deſirous of having me near them, I had Thoughts of ſettling amongſt them. But when I came to *Oxford*, my Friends urged

urged ſeveral Reaſons for my continuing at the Univerſity.—" The Mr. *Weſleys* had not long been " gone abroad, and now no one was left to take " Care of the Priſon Affairs, *&c.*"—They further urged, " That GOD had bleſſed my Endeavours *there* " as well as at *Glouceſter*; that the Univerſity was " the Fountain head, that every Gownſman's Name " was Legion, and that if I ſhould be made inſtru- " mental in converting one of *them*, it would be as " much as converting a whole Pariſh." At the ſame Time (unknown to me) ſome of them ſent to that great and good man, the late Sir *John Phillips*, who was a great Encourager of the *Oxford* Methodiſts; and tho' he had never ſeen, but only heard of me, yet he ſent Word he would allow me thirty Pounds a year, if I would continue at the Univerſity. Upon this, finding the Care of the Priſoners would be no more than under GOD I could undertake with Pleaſure, and knowing the Univerſity was the beſt Place to proſecute my ſtudies. I reſolved, GOD willing, to wait at *Oxford* for a Bleſſing on the firſt Fruits of my miniſterial Labours.

In the mean while, having before made ſome Obſervations upon the Thirty nine Articles, and proved them by Scripture, I ſtrictly examined myſelf by the Qualifications required for a Miniſter in St. *Paul's* Epiſtle to *Timothy*, and alſo by every Queſtion that I knew was to be publicly put to me at the Time of my Ordination. *This* latter I drew out in Writing at large, and ſealed my Approbation of *it* every *Sunday* at the bleſſed Sacrament.—At length *Trinity-Sunday* being near at hand, and having my Teſtimonials from the College, I went a Fortnight before-hand to *Glouceſter*, intending to compoſe ſome Sermons, and to give myſelf more particularly to Prayer.

But GOD's Thoughts are not as our Thoughts.—When I came to *Glouceſter*, notwithſtanding I ſtrove and prayed for ſeveral Days, and had Matter enough

in my Heart, yet I was ſo reſtrained that I could not compoſe any thing at all. I mentioned my Caſe to one Clergyman. He ſaid, "I was an En-"thuſiaſt." I wrote to another who was experienced in the divine Life; he gave me ſome Reaſons why GOD might deal with me in that Manner, and withal promiſed me his Prayers.—I joined with him in importunate Supplication to know whether this Reſtraint was of GOD or not?——At laſt, in reading Mr. *Henry*, upon the *Acts of the Apoſtles*, this Paſſage was much preſſed upon my Heart, "*We eſ-*"*ſayed to go into Bithinia, but the Spirit ſuffered us* "*not.*" Looking a little farther, I found a Quotation out of *Ezekiel*, wherein GOD ſaid to that young Prophet, juſt after he had given him a divine and public Commiſſion, "*Thou ſhalt be dumb, but when* "*I ſpeak unto thee, then ſhalt thou ſpeak.*" This made me quite eaſy. The Remainder of the Fortnight I ſpent in reading the ſeveral Miſſions of the Prophets and Apoſtles, and wreſtled with GOD to give me Grace to follow their good Examples.

About three Days before the Time appointed for Ordination the Biſhop came to Town. The next Evening I ſent his Lordſhip an Abſtract of my private Examination upon theſe two Queſtions, "*Do you* "*truſt that you are inwardly moved by the Holy Ghoſt* "*to take upon you this Office and Adminiſtration?*" And, "*Are you called according to the Will of our* "*Lord Jeſus Chriſt, and the Laws of this Realm?*" The next Morning I waited on the Biſhop. He received me with much Love, telling me, "He was "glad I was come: that he was ſatisfied with the "Preparation I had made, and with the Allowance "given me by Sir *John Philips*. I had myſelf (ſaid "he) made Proviſion for you of two little Pariſhes, "but ſince you chooſe to be at *Oxford*, I am very "well pleaſed.—I doubt not but you will do much "good."—Upon this I took my Leave, abaſhed with GOD's Goodneſs to ſuch a Wretch, but withal exceed-

exceedingly rdjoiced, that in every Circumſtance he made my way into the Miniſtry ſo very plain before my Face!

This, I think, was on *Friday*. The Day following I continued in Abſtinence and Prayer.—In the Evening I retired to a Hill near the Town, and prayed, fervently for about two Hours, in Behalf of myſelf and thoſe that were to be ordained with me.

On *Sunday* Morning I roſe early, and prayed over St. *Paul's* Epiſtle to *Timothy*, and more particularly over *that* Precept, "*Let no one deſpiſe thy Youth.*" —When I went up to the Altar, I could think of nothing but *Samuel's* ſtanding a little Child before the Lord, with a Linen Ephod.—When the Biſhop laid his Hands upon my Head, my Heart was melted down, and I offered up my whole Spirit, Soul and Body, to the Service of GOD's Sanctuary!—I read the Goſpel, at the Biſhop's Command, with power, and afterward ſealed the good confeſſion I had made before many Witneſſes, by partaking of the holy Sacrament of our Lord's moſt bleſſed Body and Blood!

Being reſtrained from Writing, as was before obſerved, I could not preach in the Afternoon, though much ſolicited thereto. But I read Prayers to the poor Priſoners, being willing to let the firſt Act of my miniſterial office be an Act of Charity.

The next Morning, waiting upon GOD in Prayer, to know what he would have me do, theſe Words, "*ſpeak out, Paul,*" came with great Power to my Soul. Immediately my Heart was enlarged,—GOD ſpake to me by his Spirit, and I was no longer dumb—I finiſhed a Sermon I had in hand ſome Time before, I began another, and preached the *Sunday* following to a very crowded Audience, with as much Freedom as though I had been a Preacher for ſome Years.

Oh the unſpeakable Benefit of reading to the Poor, and exerciſing our Talents while Students at the Univerſity? Such previous Acts are very proper to prepare us for the Work of our Lord, and make us not unapt to teach in a more public manner.—It is remarkable that our Lord ſent out his Apoſtles on ſhort Miſſions, before they were ſo ſolemnly authoriſed at the Day of *Pentecoſt*. Would the Heads and Tutors of our Univerſities follow his Example, and, inſtead of diſcouraging their Pupils from doing any Thing of this Nature ſend them to viſit the Sick and the Priſoners, and to pray with, and read practical Books of Religion to the Poor, they would find ſuch Exerciſes of more Service to *them*, and to the *Church* of GOD, than *all* their private and publick *Lectures* put together.

Thus GOD dealt with my Soul.—At the ſame Time by his gracious Providence, he ſupplied me with all Things needful for my Body alſo.—For he inclined the Biſhop's Heart to give me five Guineas more, and by this Time, a Quarter's Allowance was due to me from Sir *John Phillips*, both which Sums put together, fully ſerved to defray the Expences of my Ordination, and taking my Batchelor's Degree, which was conferred on me at *Oxford* the Week after my being ordained, when I was about one and twenty Years of Age.

Theſe Changes, from a Servitor to a Batchelor of Arts, from a common Drawer to a Clergyman, were no doubt Temptations to think more highly of myſelf than I ought to think; and ſome were therefore jealous over me, as I truſt they always will be, with a godly jealouſy; GOD, who is rich in Mercy thereby forewarned me of my Danger, ſtirred up my Heart to pray againſt ſpiritual Pride, and kept me (as I hope he will to the End) in ſome meaſure always humbled before him!

Thus did GOD, by a Variety of unforſeen Acts of Providence and Grace, train me up for, and at length introduce me into the Service of his Church.

What

What has happened to me ſince that Time, eſpecially for theſe two laſt years, is ſo known as to need no Repetition; however, as I had freedom in myſelf, and Leiſure from my miniſterial Employ, I ſhall hereafter relate GOD's further Dealings with my Soul, and how he led me into my preſent Way of acting.

In the mean while, my dear Reader, whoſoever thou art, I pray GOD what I have now written may not prove a Saviour of Death unto Death, but a Saviour of Life unto Life unto my Soul!——Many, I fear, thro' Ignorance, Prejudice, and Unbelief, when they read this, will contradict and blaſpheme. Be not thou of this Number; but if thou art yet uninfected with the Contagion of the World, I pray GOD to keep thee *ſo*: For (believe me) innocence is better than Repentance; and tho' Sin may afford thee ſome brutiſh preſent Pleaſure, yet the Remembrance of it afterwards is exceeding bitter.—If thou art immerſed in Sin as I was, take no Encouragement from me to continue in it on the one Hand, nor deſpair of Mercy on the other.—Let GOD's Goodneſs to me lead thee alſo to Repentance.—The ſame Lord is rich unto ALL that call upon him through Faith in *Chriſt Jeſus*. If through divine Grace I have done any Thing Praiſe-worthy, not unto me, not unto me, but unto GOD give all the Glory!—if thou art awakened to a ſenſe of the divine Life, and art hungering and thirſting after that Righteouſneſs which is by Faith only in *Jeſus Chriſt*, and the In-dwelling of his bleſſed Spirit in thy Heart, think it not abſolutely neceſſary to paſs through all the Temptations that have beſet me round about on every Side.—It is in the ſpiritual as in the natural Life; ſome feel more, others leſs, but all experience ſome Pangs and Travails of Soul, ere *Chriſt Jeſus* is formed within them. If GOD deals with thee in a more gentle Way, yet ſo as that a thorough Work of Converſion is effected in thy Heart, thou oughteſt to be exceeding

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ing thankful.—Or if he ſhould lead thee through a longer Wilderneſs than I have paſſed through, thou needeſt not complain.—The more thou art *humbled now*, the more thou ſhalt be *exalted hereafter*.—One Taſte of *Chriſt's* Love in the Heart, will make Amends for all.—And if thou *haſt felt the Powers of the World to come, and been made a Partaker of the Holy Ghoſt*, I know thou wilt rejoice, and give thanks for what GOD has done for thy Soul.—To conclude; may all that peruſe theſe few Sheets be as much affected alternately with Grief and Joy in reading, as I have been in writing them; they will then have the deſired Effect, and cauſe many Thankſgivings to be offered in my Behalf to that GOD who has called me out of Darkneſs into his marvellous Light! And that thou, O Reader, whoever thou art, mayeſt experience the like and greater Bleſſings, is the hearty Prayer of thy Soul's Friend and Servant,

GEORGE WHITFIELD.

A HYMN.

A

HYMN.

TAKEN FROM

Mr. *ADDISON.*

1. *WHEN all thy Mercies, O my GOD,*
My riſing Soul ſurveys,
Why, my cold Heart, art thou not loſt
In Wonder, Love, and Praiſe?

2. *Thy Providence my Life ſuſtain'd,*
And all my Wants redreſt,
While in the ſilent Womb I lay,
And hung upon the Breaſt.

3. *To all my weak Complaints and Cries*
Thy Mercy lent an Ear;
E're yet my feeble Thoughts had learn'd
To form themſelves in Prayer.

4. *Unnumber'd Comforts on my Soul,*
Thy tender Care beſtow'd,
Before my Infant Heart conceiv'd
From whom thoſe Comforts flow'd.

5. *When*

5. *When in the slippery Paths of Youth*
With heedless Steps I ran,
Thine Arm unseen convey'd me safe,
And led me up to Man.

6. *Thro' hidden Dangers, Toils, and Deaths,*
It gently clear'd my Way,
And thro' the pleasing Snare, of Vice,
More to be fear'd than they.

7. *Ten thousand thousand precious Gifts*
My daily Thanks employ;
Nor is the least chearful Heart,
That tastes those Gifts with Joy.

8. *Thro' ev'ry Period of my Life*
Thy Goodness I'll pursue,
And after Death in distant Worlds
The pleasing Theme renew.

9. *Through all Eternity to thee*
A grateful Song I'll raise;
But O! Eternity's too short
To utter all thy Praise.

FINIS.